

means for feeding into said inlet successive products of a series of products having tubular wrappers each of which is contacted by the respective strip whereby the wrappers are caused to roll due to contact with said surfaces and to thus convolute the strips thereabout in a first portion of the channel at said inlet; and

means for changing the permeability of the wrappers during rolling at least in a second portion of the channel between said first portion and said outlet,

wherein a portion of one of the first and second surfaces is stationary and flat.

REMARKS

Claims 12-15 and 17-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended and claim 16 is cancelled.

A marked-up version of the changes made to claim 12 is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Applicant thanks Examiner Lopez for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during telephone conferences on December 6 and December 12, 2002. This Supplemental Amendment is filed in furtherance to those conferences.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance with claims 12-15 and 17-28. Reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

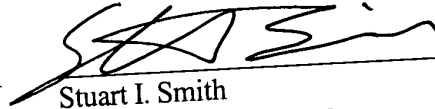
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Applicant: Manfred Dombek
Appl. No.: 09/773,490

It is believed that no fees are due with this Amendment. However, should any fees be required, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 22-0261 and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT A

In the claims:

12. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for treating smokers' products of a type wherein a rod-shaped component is surrounded by a tubular wrapper carrying a deformable strip, comprising:

a rolling unit having surfaces defining a channel and including first and second surfaces at least one of which moves relative to the other thereof, said channel having an inlet and an outlet;

means for feeding into said inlet successive products of a series of products having tubular wrappers each of which is contacted by the respective strip whereby the wrappers are caused to roll due to contact with said surfaces and to thus convolute the strips thereabout in a first portion of the channel at said inlet; and

means for changing the permeability of the wrappers during rolling at least in a second portion of the channel between said first portion and said outlet,

wherein a portion of one of the first and second surfaces is stationary and flat.